THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : An amount of Rs.8.91 Crores has been paid to the Kith and Kin of the persons killed/injured in train accidents during the last three years.

Flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad

1942. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in Saurashtra region of Gujarat, there is only one Airport, i.e. Rajkot;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to introduce flight from Delhi to Rajkot and Ahmedabad and vice-versa;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. There are four airports belonging to Airports Authority of India in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat located at Bhavnagar, Keshod, Porbandar, Rajkot and one civil enclave at Jamnagar.

(b) to (d). NEPC Airlines is operating a daily flight on sector Delhi-Rajkot via Mumbai. Delhi is airlinked with Ahmedabad with two daily flights by Indian Airlines and one daily flight by jet Airways direct between Delhi and Ahmedabad and three weekly flights by Indian Airlines via Jaipur.

[Translation]

Abolition of Contract System

1943. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to abolish contract system for cleanliness at various railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such railway stations, location-wise in the country, particularly in Western Railway;

(c) whether the Government have made any alternative arrangement for cleanliness at these railway stations or considering any proposal to appoint scavengers at these railway stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the names of railway stations where permanent/temporary scavengers are appointed; and

(e) the details of progess made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A Statement is attached.

(c) to (e). Railways propose to undertake cleanliness of stations departmentally. For this, various steps like filling up of vacancies of safaiwalas, introduction of "Pay & Use" toilets Scheme, use of modern equipments, etc. will be undertaken.

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As on 1.12.96 at 96 stations, cleanliness work had been entrusted to private parties. Of these, 24 stations are on Western Railway, the names of which are as under:-

1.	Surat	13.	Bandra Terminus
2.	Vikramgarh Alot	14.	Ramganj Mandi
3.	Bhawani Mandi	14.	Morak
4.	Lakheri	15.	Indergarh
5.	Gangapur City	16.	Kota Jn
6.	Shri Mahavirji	17.	Hindaun City
7.	Bayana	18.	Fatehpur Sikri
8.	Anta	19.	Dahid
9.	Thalera	20.	Jalindri
10.	Upramal	21.	Shampur
11.	Mandalgarh	22.	Baraundri
12.	Parsoli	24.	Bassi-Berissal

The contracts will not be renewed after their expiry.

[English]

Modernisation of Exchanges in Gujarat/Maharashtra

1944. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Electronic/electro-mechanical Exchanges set up, so far in the country, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra district-wise, exchange-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such new Exchanges during 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mica Reserves in Bihar

1945. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of mica reserves in Bihar, location-wise;